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Recently President Barack Obama proclaimed December 2010 as Critical Infrastructure Protection Month. I am in full support of this proclamation and call upon the people of Idaho to recognize the importance of protecting our Nation and State's resources and to observe this month with appropriate events and training to enhance our national security and resilience.

During Critical Infrastructure Protection Month it is important that we focus on the vast network of systems and assets that sustain our way of life in Idaho. Critical infrastructure includes physical and virtual networks and structures that are paramount to the security, economy, health, and protection of Idaho and the entire United States of America.

I encourage you all to become more familiar with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan which nests a wide variety of private and public stakeholders to identify and protect our infrastructure from natural hazards or human caused attacks. These key infrastructure partnerships continue to develop information-sharing capabilities and develop plans of action that significantly enhance our State's prevention initiatives, preparedness activities, response capabilities, and recovery operations.

Please consider reviewing the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and the Eighteen Sector-Specific Plans at:

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0827.shtm.

Also, visit the Emergency Management website at:

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp> to take advantage of the following online courses:

- IS 821 Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources Support Annex
- IS 860.a National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)

You can participate in Critical Infrastructure Protection Month by:

- Tracking new web postings by registering for updates on www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure;
- Watching for upcoming critical infrastructure blog posts (<http://blog.dhs.gov/>); and
- Following Critical Infrastructure Protection Month on Twitter @DHSJournal.

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is fully committed to the protection of Idaho's citizens and the Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources that we rely on every day. Additionally, we fully recognize the importance of raising the awareness of our citizens to the important role our critical infrastructure plays in sustaining our way of life!



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